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| LOTUS AND RATIONAL SOFTWARE | | | LONG, ANDREA NATAE | |
| David A. Dagg, Esq. | | | ART UNIT | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

dave@davedagg.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,014

Applicant(s)

WILSON ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea N. Long

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

FINAL ACTION

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 06/19/2008, Applicant amended Claims 1 and 4, cancelled claims 7-19, and argued against the rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 02/22/2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blagsvedt et al (US 7216147 B2), hereinafter "Blagsvedt" in view of Mendiola et al (WO 01/86472 A1), hereinafter "Mendiola", in further view of Smith et al (Conversation Trees and Threaded Chats, 2000), hereinafter "Smith" in further view of Duffy et al (US 2002/0165898 A1), hereinafter "Duffy", in further view of Muriel Gottrop (Wikipedia - Wiki, 11/7/2003), hereinafter "Gottrop".

As to independent claim 1, Blagsvedt teaches a method of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system comprising:

obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user (column 1 lines 57-61, column 4 lines 53-54, line 67- column 5 line 4 – the user's presence information can be sent by the user or queried by the service provider);

providing a user interface for adding a new entry to said user status message (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, column 5 line 21 to column 6 line 66 - a user interface is provided to allow a user to change the presence information);

inputting, through said user interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include with said new entry (column 6 lines 59-66 – user is able to customize text that is to be presented as presence information);

adding said new entry to said user status message (column 6 line 67- column 7 line 3). Blagsvedt additionally teaches where the presence information can be edited (changed) by the owner through a clickable portion of said user status message (column 6 lines 62-66). Blagsvedt does not explicitly teach wherein the new entry include inserting a time, adding the entry to a plurality of previous entries, other users are able to edit the entries, or detecting and forming a link to a webpage.

Both Mendiola and Smith teach recording user activity for logging in collaboration environments. Mendiola provides an instant messaging system that tracks the online status of a user by recording a user's activity (page 9 lines 21-27) in a database logging time stamped user activities (page 10 line 21 to page 11 line 18). Smith provides a collaboration system (chat room) that displays a logged transcript of a user's login and logout (Figure 1) to provide a sense of history and context within a chat room. Therefore the combining of Mendiola with the Smith reasonably teaches wherein said adding new entry includes inserting a time at

which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the features of tracking and displaying of a user's status history as taught by the combination of Mendiola and Smith with the presence awareness system of Blagsvedt to provide a sense of status history for other users of the instant messaging system.

Duffy discloses the use of assigning delegates for a given user, in a collaboration system, which allows the delegates to access that user's e-mail, calendar, and other information, and to respond to messages on behalf of a user (page 1 paragraph [0008]). Broadly interpreted in conjunction with the teachings of Blagsvedt would allow other user to edit the owner user's status messages.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have combined the teachings of Blagsvedt, Mendiola and Smith with the assigning delegates for a given user of Duffy to allow for editing of status messages in the event that a user of a system designed to utilize the system is absent from work, overburdened and incapable of changing, updating or editing their presence awareness.

As discussed above Blagsvedt teaches allowing a user to type in a customized status message to be displayed. Gottrop discloses CamelCase (also known as BumpCase), which is a predetermined capitalization format used in the WikiWiki software convention for automatically

making links (page 2). As known to those skilled in the art links (hyperlinks) link/direct a user from one document to another such as in web pages, for quick retrieval of related information.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the detecting of a character string and forming of a link to a webpage as that available with Gottrop with the editing of a status message, to allow for a full range of providing other users with additional detailed information about the user's current state.

As to dependent claim 2, Blagsvedt teaches adding a new entry. However Blagsvedt does not teach inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message. Both Mendiola and Smith teach recording user activity for logging in collaboration environments. Mendiola teaches tracking the user's status by time stamping changes in the systems (page 11 lines 6-10). Smith additionally teaches providing a time and date of a user's login and logout (Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined time stamping of Mendiola and Smith with the user status message of Blagsvedt to determine when the most recent usage of the user status message was edited.

Claim 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blagsvedt in view of Mendiola in further view of Smith in further view of Duffy in further view of Gottrop in further view of Pyra Labs (Blogger.com, website updated 12/02/2000), hereinafter "Blogger".

As to dependent claim 3, note the discussion above of claim 1, Blagsvedt teaches adding a new entry. However Blagsvedt does not teach inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message. Blogger teaches a collaboration system for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request of a new entry (Reference to the sample blogs provided on pages 4-7).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined blogging with the user status message of Blagsvedt to give credit to the user who edited or added the new entry.

As to dependent claims 4 and 5, note the discussion of claim 1. Blagsvedt teaches adding a new entry to a user status message. However, Blagsvedt does not teach a predetermined format and wherein the predetermined format is a predetermined capitalization format or creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

Gottrop discloses CamelCase (also known as BumpCase), which is a predetermined capitalization format used in the WikiWiki software convention for automatically making links (page 2). As known to those skilled in the art links (hyperlinks) link/direct a user from one document to another such as in web pages, for quick retrieval of related information. Additionally Gottrop teaches creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page (page 2).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a predetermined capitalization format to form links to editable web pages to provide a user with a standard method of quickly and easily creating links that will provide additional detailed information to other users.

As to dependent claim 6, Blagsvedt teaches adding a new entry to a user status message and establishing what information is to be displayed to other users. Blagsvedt does not explicitly teach enabling the owner user to indicate what other users are allowed to add an entry to the user status message.

Duffy teaches presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message and preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message (page 1 paragraph [0008] – assigning of delegates).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have combined the teachings of Blagsvedt with the assigning delegates for a given user of Duffy to control what users are allowed for editing of status messages in the event that a user of a system designed to utilize the system is absent from work, overburdened and incapable of changing, updating or editing their presence awareness.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's argument with respect to claim 1 has been considered but is moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as necessitated by the amendment.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea N. Long whose telephone number is 571-270-1055. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 6:00 am to 3:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrea Long
September 24, 2008

/Rachna S Desai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2176